

Obituary.

MR. SPENCER LE M. MOORE.

MR. SPENCER LE MARCHANT MOORE, who died on Mar. 14 last at the age of eighty years, joined the staff of the Herbarium at the Royal Gardens, Kew, in 1872, on leaving University College, where he gained the gold medal for botany. Few young men have had the opportunity of training in so brilliant a school of systematists as Kew then offered. Joseph Hooker was director, Daniel Oliver was in charge of the herbarium with J. G. Baker as his second, and George Bentham was in daily attendance, co-operating with Hooker on the "Genera Plantarum", the greatest classic of plant taxonomy. Moore, who was about twenty-one years of age, quickly got to work. Between 1875 and 1880 he contributed a number of papers to the *Journal of Botany*, partly in co-operation with J. G. Baker, on collections from North China, tropical Africa, and the Mascarene Islands, and on various genera of Orchids and Acanthaceae. In 1877 appeared, in the same *Journal*, the first of his "Alabastra diversa", a series of descriptions and critical notes bearing on genera and species of flowering plants, which, except for a long break from 1880 to 1899, continued almost yearly up to 1929. From 1877 until 1879 he assisted Henry Trimen in the editorship of the *Journal*.

Then came a break. An unfortunate difference with Hooker led to Moore's resignation in 1880, and an attempt to obtain a post in the Department of Botany of the British Museum was unsuccessful. During the ten years that followed, he turned his attention to plant cytology and a succession of papers entitled "Studies in Vegetable Biology" appeared under his name in the *Journal of the Linnean Society*. They dealt with such subjects as continuity of protoplasm, effect of light on protoplasmic movement, and the nature of callus. But he was a lone worker, his papers attracted little attention, and one feels that he had got out of his proper element. However, in 1891 came an opportunity. He joined as botanist a prospecting expedition to Matto Grosso, Brazil, and returned with a large collection, the elaboration of which, comprising many new genera and species, and a general account of the vegetation of the district, filled 250 pages of a volume of the Linnean Society's *Transactions*. It was distinctly his *magnum opus*. In 1894-96, he joined a small gold-seeking expedition to the interior of Western Australia, and his "Botanical Results and Observations on the Nature and Relations of the Desert Flora", also published by the Linnean Society, was a valuable contribution to the botany of a little-known area.

Then in 1898, Moore came to anchor in the Department of Botany of the British Museum as an 'unofficial assistant', and from then until the time of his death worked steadily on the Museum collections. His interests lay chiefly with the families Compositae and Acanthaceae and the Australian flora. But there were few families of Dicotyledons of which he had not a working knowledge, and the results of his work appeared in a continuous stream

of critical descriptive papers. In the preparation of accounts of important collections received at the Museum, the elaboration of the gamopetalous and apetalous Dicotyledons generally fell to his share. Since William Fawcett's death in 1926 he had been helping towards the completion of the "Flora of Jamaica". He had finished the Compositae and the greater part of the Rubiaceae, when a paralytic stroke abruptly ended his work, in his eighty-first year.

Few botanists have left such a full record of critical taxonomic spade-work, or have accumulated so extensive a knowledge of the minutiae of the genera and species of flowering plants. Spencer Moore's kindly personality and his invaluable help, always ungrudgingly given, will be greatly missed by his former colleagues at the Museum.

A. B. RENDLE.

WE regret to record the death on Dec. 19, at the age of eighty-nine years, of Dr. C. Willgerodt, extra-ordinary professor of chemistry at the University of Freiburg-im-Breisgau. From the *Chemiker-Zeitung* we learn the following particulars of his career. Born at Harlingerodt in 1841, the son of a farmer, Willgerodt was trained as a teacher and spent some years teaching in an elementary school before turning his attention to scientific work. At the Polytechnic at Brunswick, he began to study zoology; but in his twenty-eighth year he moved to Berlin, where, under the inspiring influence of A. W. von Hofmann, he devoted his whole time to chemistry. Two years later he accepted a post as chemist in a colour factory at Elberfeld, and shortly afterwards he became manager of a factory at Opladen. Feeling, however, a desire for further study, he gave up his post and entered the University of Freiburg, where, after graduation, he was appointed to the teaching staff. Willgerodt remained at Freiburg for the remainder of his life. In 1896 he was appointed director of the Technological Institute, and in 1915 extra-ordinary professor of inorganic chemistry and technology. Willgerodt published numerous original papers on organic chemistry, the best known of which deal with the interaction of chloroform, acetone, and caustic alkalis and with the iodoso- and iodoxy-derivatives of benzene.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Dr. J. C. Hemmeter, professor of physiology and clinical medicine in the University of Maryland, known for his work on the physiology and pathology of the intestines, on Feb. 25, aged sixty-seven years.

Mr. J. G. Millais, who was the author of many books on natural history and sport and was known for his excellent animal paintings, on Mar. 24, aged sixty-six years.

Mr. P. P. Quayle, physicist to the Phillips Cartridge Company of America and formerly an assistant in the Bureau of Standards, who was a recognised authority on ballistics, on Feb. 21.

Mr. A. J. Turner, principal of the Victoria Jubilee Technical Institute, Matunga, Bombay, author of a number of papers on chemistry, on Mar. 15, aged fifty-six years.